



Soco Transmission <socotransmission@gmail.com>

New Comment Submission

EDAW Engage <info@engage.edaw.com>

Tue, Aug 18, 2009 at 7:51 AM

To: Info socotransmission <info@socotransmission.com>, dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov, douglas.johnston@aeacom.com

A new comment has been submitted at socotransmission.com.

COMMENT

Meeting Attended:
Blanca Scoping Meeting

Important Issues:

Land Use (Agriculture, Residential, Recreation), Water Resources (Floodplains, River Crossings), Historic and Cultural Sites, Noise, Health and Safety, Project Purpose and Need, Biological Resources, Visual / Aesthetic Resources, Proximity to Residences

Property Uses:

Residential, Other
OTHER: Retirement/Recreation

Comment:

We have so many comments that it may be difficult to express them in this small space. First, at the Blanca meeting a Ms. Nelson told us, in response to our concern that the poles would literally be in our front yard in the Sangre de Cristo Ranches/subdivision, that "the poles would have to be put in someone's front yard." We disagree with her flippant analysis completely. The poles should not be placed in any residential areas and that is where Rts.39,40, and 41 cut through! The area has historical significance, for example, the Old Taos Trail and old Garland City, which has recently been charted. Also, elk graze in the "Greenway" that Forbes originally established for the people in the area when he sold the roads to the county. We are researching, and you should have already researched, the Greenway provisions because high voltage poles would deviate from the original recreational plan for this area and interfere with the wildlife in the area - Eagles, Crane, Elk, Deer, and more! The county roads in our "neighborhood" are often times difficult to traverse and are washed out on a regular basis; in fact, Rts.39-41, Beekman Rd., run right through an area that is subject to flash floods and dangerous weather conditions. The roads are narrow and difficult to pass - on a good day. Costilla County is a poor county and has limited resources for upkeep. Another concern/observation is that we have not had affordable access to electricity on our property. We have had to install an expensive (not as expensive as bringing electrical power lines to our property) solar system because of our distance from electricity. It seems almost criminal that we would have high voltage transmission poles in our front yard when we could not even get access to electricity. We have lived in our cabin on and off for about 20 years. We recently retired and now stay in The Valley for half of the year. We were surprised (shocked) to see that our property, which includes a house and 15 acres, has been chosen to be invaded by this project. We were not surprised, however, to learn that Mr. Bacon's land and the Forbes Park (a gated area) have been taken out of consideration. The project seems to be positioning itself to prey upon people who can't afford strong legal representation. A case could be made that bulldozing through the Blanca/Ft. Garland areas is a form of environmental racism; the demographics must have affected the recent alternative corridor choices. We intend to research and develop this concept. Incidentally, the towns of Blanca and Ft. Garland don't even appear on the major map that delineates the project. We are guessing that their small sizes aren't the real reasons for their being left off the map; they just must not be seen as

I-124-001

I-124-002

I-124-003

I-124-004

I-124-005

I-124-001: Route Refinement > SLV-Calumet (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Route refinement for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-124-002: Cultural, Historic, and Arch (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to and mitigation measures regarding cultural, historic, and archaeological resources from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-124-003: Recreation (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to recreational resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-124-004: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

<http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=760671f559&view=pt&search=inbox&msg...> 8/27/2009

I-124-006

important to big city corporate types. Also, adding insult to injury, I called for information about the scoping meetings and a voicemail message told me to leave my information and someone would get back to me in a couple days. I was inquiring about the meeting that was scheduled for Alamosa today, 8-18-09. The voicemail directed me to go to the internet for information. That message is further indication that the project directors don't have a clue about the living conditions in the Valley. We don't all have immediate access to the internet. We were told yesterday that this mammoth project would not be able to address those issues.

Our most urgent concern is with proposed rts.39 and 41 which run DIRECTLY in front of our house. One of our questions at this point is, should this route become the designated route what can we do to minimize any personal impact that it would have on our property value and the many environmental and aesthetic concerns.

Considering the negative impact that this poorly conceived project could have on our lives WE DESERVE AND EXPECT A DIRECT AND PERSONAL RESPONSE to our comments.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Robert and Sally Keller
Mailing Address: P.O. 182
City: Ft. Garland
State: CO
Zip Code: 81133
Email Address: salparadise1@msn.com
Receive Newsletter: on

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-124-005: Environmental Justice (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Environmental justice topics and mitigation measures related to the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-124-006: Socioeconomic Resources (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to social and economic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.